



BARC

Newsletter

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The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development to the NARS and other concerned organization in Bangladesh.

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Unveiling Sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

The great leader and the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman liberated our country. Realizing that Bangladesh is an agro-based country since the time immemorial and its economy would be founded on the agricultural development, Bangabandhu had given utmost importance for the development of agriculture by taking several steps. Recognizing the role of agriculturists, soon after forming the government, along with other steps, Bangabandhu declared first class honor to agricultural officers who are serving for the food production and food safety of the nation on 13th February 1973. In commemoration of his contributions towards the development of agriculture, a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was founded at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council compound and it was unveiled on 22 November 2016.



Hon'ble Guests unveiled the Sculpture of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

In this program, Hon'ble Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was present as chief guest and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury was present as special guest. The function was presided over by Mr. Mohammad Mainuddin Abdullah, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

In the important event Organizing Secretary of Awami League Mr. AFM Bahauddin Nasim, MP and Abdul Mannan, MP also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC was also present and gave welcome address.



Hon'ble Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was as chief guest and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury was as special guest, Mr. AFM Bahauddin Nasim, MP, Abdul Mannan, MP, Mr. Mohammad Mainuddin Abdullah, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was present as Chairperson and Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, EC, BARC gave the wellcome address in the discussion meeting

Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal in his speech expressed that Bangladesh has attained food sufficiency under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, successor of the father of the nation.

He also mentioned that Bangabandhu had given the status of class one officer to the agriculture officers.

Addressing the function, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture said attaining food sufficiency was a difficult task in such a densely populated country in Bangladesh, but it has been made possible.

She also added Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has realized that agriculture is the main driving force and thus her government giving 30 percent subsidy for irrigation and fertilizer.

World Food Day 2016 Observed

In observing *World Food Day 2016*, a seminar was held on *Climate is Changing, Food and Agriculture Must Too* at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council on 16 October 2016. Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance was present as chief guest, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP., Hon'ble Minister, Minis-

try of Agriculture and Mr. Kamrul Islam MP., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Food were present as special guests in the seminar. Mr. Md. Mokbul Hossain MP., Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Mike Robson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh were present as guests of honor in the occasion. The seminar was presided over by Mr. Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. M A Sattar Mondal, Ex-VC, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh presented the keynote paper in the seminar.

The program was started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC. In his address, he highlighted the objectives of the seminar and Food Fair. Dr. M A Sattar Mondal, in his keynote presentation, described the current climate situation of Bangladesh, environmentally vulnerable areas, how is climate change perceived in Bangladesh, some extreme events of climate change, climate change impact on Agriculture, stakes in future food system, strategies for tomorrow's food and agriculture, coping and mitigation strategy, strengthening of education, research and extension system. He also mentioned the research and extension activities along with role to be taken for mitigating the affects of climate change.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP mentioned that about 2 crore people would be climate migrant in 2100 which would be difficult to manage in Bangladesh. However, it is hopeful that the people of climate vulnerable area facing and adapting in the changing climate with their own effort not depending on government. Over the time, the agriculture sector progressing in mutation breeding, biotechnology for developing stress tolerant crop varieties which need to be further strengthened. She stressed to devote in developing heat tolerant, pest resistant and high yielding genetically modified organism (GMO). She emphasized on research and develop-

ment for water saving cropping pattern technology for northern part of the country and increased effort for higher productivity and cropping intensity in the southern Bangladesh.



Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Kamrul Islam MP., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Food inaugurated the Fair

The chief guest, Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP., Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance, mentioned that the country was rice dependant which is now changing. Bangladesh has tremendous success in fish and vegetable production which is improving the nutritional status of the daily food of the people. He mentioned that the nutritional status increased at the rate of 2% in the country. He emphasized to increase the production of maize and meat.

A video documentary was also played on the theme of the *World Food Day 2016*.

Memorandum of Understanding between BARC and SLCARP

Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) is playing an important role in solving food and agricultural problem in Sri Lanka which could be enhanced through collaboration with agricultural research institutions in Bangladesh for the benefit of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. BARC, under the Ministry of Agriculture is the apex body of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), has the responsibility

to strengthen the national agricultural research capability through planning and integration of resources with the cooperation of national and international partnership.

The six-member delegates from SLCARP visited Bangladesh during 21-23 November 2016 under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between BARC and SLCARP to follow-up the execution of the MoU and finalized the proposed workplan in accordance with the Article IV of the MoU. According to the article IV a Joint Follow-up Committee of both parties have been formed with a provision to meet once a year, alternately in Colombo and Dhaka to follow-up the execution of this MoU and suggest necessary measures for its development.

The 1st Joint Follow-up Committee meeting under MoU between BARC and SLCARP was held at BARC, Dhaka on 21 November 2016. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC welcomed the members of Joint Follow-up Committee including distinguished participants of Bangladesh. Dr. Azad led the Bangladesh side while Mr. Dippitiya Vithanage Bandulasena, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, led the Srilankan side.

Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director (Officiating), Crops Division, BARC and Member Secretary, Joint Follow-up Committee, presented the overview of the agricultural research and development in Bangladesh followed by briefing on same topic for Sri Lanka by Dr. Sri Suddha Sinharathna Bandara Don Gunaratne Jayawardena, Chairman, SLCARP. Dr. Weerakoon Mudiyansele Wijayasiri Weerakoon, Director, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka also presented the video documentation on Agricultural Development of Sri Lanka. Later, Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Chief Scientific Officer, Crops Division, BARC presented the proposed workplan of Bangladesh and Dr. Jayalatharachchige Don Hemantha Wijewardena Secretary/Director, SLCARP, Sri Lanka presented the proposed work-



A View of Joint follow-up Meeting Between BARC and SLCARP

Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the discussion session and requested the members of both parties to revisit the proposed workplan and make addition and deletion as per necessity. Then members of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka team grouped separately and prepared their revised workplan and presented.

After detailed discussion, both the parties agreed upon the workplan for 5 years starting from 2017, effective from the date of signing on 21 November 2016 subject to confirmation by the relevant ministries of the two governments. The workplan covers eight categories, Workplan Development, Study Visits, Training, Exchange of Technologies, Novel Innovative Areas for both Parties, Exchange of Experts, Collaborative Project and Miscellaneous.

National Productivity Day 2016 observed

National Productivity Day 2016 was observed by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. To mark the day a seminar titled *Intervention of ICT in Accelerating Agricultural Production for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh* was organized by BARC at 11.30am on October 2, 2016 at BARC. This year the theme of the day was Higher Productivity for Sustainable Growth. A rally was brought out at 11.00am from KIB premises to

BARC to highlight the significance of the day. The seminar was presided over by Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC and attended by the officers and scientists of BARC. Dr. Susmita Das, Senior Documentation Officer, AIC, BARC presented the keynote paper highlighting the role of ICT in Agricultural Research and Development. She emphasized that the ICT interventions in agriculture can increase productivity. She added that ICT helps good market intelligence, so that farmers can get good remunerative price and thus increase profitability and finally it will help to reduce poverty.

Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC briefly highlighted the contributions of agricultural R&D for national development. He also urged the use of ICT in agricultural sector as much as possible and underlined the need for observing this day every year with due importance.



Dr. Susmita Das presenting the keynote paper in the Seminar

Seminar on Sugarbeet Production Processing and Management System in Belgium, France and Germany

A Seminar on Sugarbeet Production, Processing and Management System in Belgium, France and Germany was organized by Bangladesh Sugar-crop Research Institute in collaboration with BARC at BARC on December 19, 2016. Mrs Syeda Afroza Begum, Additional Secretary

(Research), Ministry of Agriculture attended the seminar as chief guest. Mr. Sanat Kumar Saha, Joint Secretary (Research), MoA and Dr. M. Khalilur Rahman, Director General, BSRI were present as special guests. Presided over by Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC the seminar was attended by the concerned scientists from BARC, BSRI, BARI, BRRI, BJRI, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Corporation and Krishi Gobeshona Foundation.

A seven member delegation comprising of the senior officers/scientists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning and BSRI visited different organizations involved sugarbeet production, processing and management in Belgium, France and Germany during 1-14 November 2016. Dr. Samajit Kumar Pal, Chief Scientific Officer, BSRI and Project Director of Strengthening Integrated Research Facilities Project of BSRI presented a report on Sugarbeet Production, Processing and Management System in Belgium, France and Germany. In the report it was urged that sugar production from sugarbeet is most profitable and for this reason the issue of establishing sugarbeet industry may be considered.

Fruits and Vegetable Production following Good Agricultural Practices

Farmers and field level extension officers training on Fruits and Vegetable Production following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) under AFACI-GAP project was conducted 1 December, 2016 at Narsingdi District. Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC attended as Chief Guest while Mr. Md. Latafat Hossain, Deputy Director, DAE, Narsingdi Chaired the inaugural session of the training. Twenty four participants including 18 demonstration farmers (brinjal, bitter gourd and banana) with six Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officer (SAAO) participated in the training programme. Trainers from BARC, BARI and DAE have given lectures on GAP guidelines, production technologies including pest and disease management, and field man-

agement according to GAP of the focus crops. Farmers showed keen interest on the new concept of GAP and they expressed satisfaction to select Narsingdi as the GAP project site. This is the first GAP activities in Narsingdi District which is one of the commercial vegetables and fruits growing areas. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Chief Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Principal Investigator of AFACI-GAP project organized the training activities.

Another two daylong professional training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Safe Production of Fruits and Vegetables under AFACI-GAP project was conducted on 14-15 December, 2016, at BARC, Dhaka. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC attended as Chief Guest while Mr. Chaitanya Kumar Das, Director, Field Service Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) attended as a Special Guest.

Dr. Md. Aziz Zilani Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC chaired the inaugural session of the training. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Chief Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Principal Investigator of the AFACI-GAP project gave the welcome address covering training course brief. Forty three participants including 25 Agricultural extension officers, 14 Scientists and 4 other professionals participated in the training programme. Trainers from BARC, DAE and Hortex Foundation covering 10 sessions on GAP concepts, standards, compliance criteria, checklists, certification process, auditing techniques etc. The training mainly focused on field level capacity development and trainers development on GAP. The training created huge interest among the participants and hopefully some trainers will be developed from this training. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan coordinated the training activities.

Training on Vermi-Compost Production Technology

Hands-on training on Vermi-Compost Production Technology under AFACI-GAP project was

conducted on 24 December 2016, at Monohordi upazilla under Narsingdi District. Twenty two participants including eight male farmers, four female farmers and 10 six Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officers (SAAO) participated in the training programme. Initially, the training was started on the yard of a farmer (banana demonstration farmer) where importance, quality, uses and management aspects of vermi-compost were discussed. Afterwards hands on training were provided among the participants. After that the group was shifted in the nearby village to demonstrate and setup three sets of production unit.

Vermi-compost production materials like, concrete ring (2 for each farmer), polythene, live earthworms, semi decomposed cow dung, plant debris (banana and water hyacinth) were distributed among 12 participating farmers. It is noted that this is the first installation of vermi-compost in Monohordi upazilla. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, CSO (Crops) & PI of the AFACI-GAP Project, Md. Latafat Hossain, Deputy Director, Md. Mijanur Rahman, Additional Deputy Director, DAE, Mohammad Mahbubur Rashid, Upazilla Agriculture Officer, DAE and Mahua Sharmin Munmun, Agricultural Extension Officer, DAE Narsingdi demonstrated the theoretical and practical aspects of the training. An experienced farmer and entrepreneur of vermi-compost from Narsingdi Sadar was also assisted the team for installing and sharing trouble shooting issues at production phase.

Training on Grafting of Fruit saplings and Nursery Management for Gardeners

Five training programmes on Grafting of Fruit saplings and Nursery Management for Gardeners were organized by TTMU, BARC and BARI and funded by KGF at Rajshahi, Kagrachari, Rangpur and Barisal. The objective of the training programme was to train gardeners on grafting of fruits sapling and nursery management.



Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mandal, Director General, BARI was the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Razzaque, Executive Director, KGF was the Special Guest. Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Director (TTMU), BARC and course Director of training programme was the Guest of Honour and Dr. Md. Sakawat Hossen Director (HRC), BARI was present as chairperson in the inaugural session

First one was held on 02 October 2016 at BARI, Gazipur. A total forty gardeners from DAE (25), BADC (10), BARI (5) was attained in the training course. Specialized scientists of fruit division, BARI, Gazipur and BARC delivered lectures on grafting and nursery management for fruits.

In the inaugural session of the training Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mandal, Director General, BARI was the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Abdul Razzaque, Executive Director, KGF was the Special Guest, Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, Director (TTMU), BARC and course Director of training programme was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Md. Sakawat Hossen Director (HRC), BARI was presided over the inaugural session. Welcome address was given by Dr. Madan Gopal Saha, Chief Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Centre, HRC, BARI, Gazipur. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Principal Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC was the Course Coordinator of training programme.

During certificate giving ceremony participants expressed their highest gratitude to BARC for organizing this type of useful training for gardeners. They have requested to conduct more than 1 day training programme.

Second one was held on 18 October 2016 at RARS, BARI Burirhat, Rangpur. A total of forty

gardeners from DAE (25), BADC (10), BARI (5) attended in the training course. Specialized scientists of fruit division, BARI, Gazipur and BARC delivered lectures on grafting and nursery management for fruits.

In the inaugural session Dr. Madan Gopal Saha, Chief Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI, Gazipur was the Chief Guest. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Principal Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC and Course Coordinator of training programme was the Special Guest and Dr. Babul Chandra Sarker, Principal Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Md. Abu Alam Mandal, Chief Scientific Officer, RARS, BARI, Burirhat, Rangpur presided over the inaugural session.

During certificate giving ceremony participants appreciated practical classes for learning grafting of fruit saplings and suggested more similar training program to other districts of Bangladesh.

Third one was held on 19 October 2016 at Fruit Research Centre, BARI Binodpur, Rajshahi. A total of forty gardeners from DAE (25), BADC (10), BARI(5) attended the training course. Specialized scientists of fruit division, BARI, Gazipur and BARC delivered lectures on grafting and nursery management for fruits. In the inaugural session Dr. Madan Gopal Saha, Chief Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI, Gazipur was the Chief Guest. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Principal Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC and Course Coordinator of training programme was the Special Guest Dr. Babul Chandra Sarker, Principal Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI, Gazipur was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Md. Alim Uddin, Principal Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Centre, BARI Binodpur, Rajshahi presided over the inaugural session. During certificate giving ceremony gardeners expressed their needs for 3-4 days training programme in Bangladesh and also in abroad.

Fourth one was held on 24 October 2016 at Hill Agricultural Research Centre, BARI, Kagrachari.

A total of forty gardeners from DAE (25), BADC (10), BARI (5) attended in the training course. Specialized scientists of fruit division, BARI, Gazipur and BARC delivered lectures on grafting and nursery management for fruits. In the inaugural session Dr. Munshi Rashid Ahmed, Principal Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI, Gazipur was the Chief Guest. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Principal Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC and Course Coordinator of training programme was the Special Guest. Dr. Md. Jillur Rahman, Senior Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI, Gazipur was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Golam Rahman, Scientific Officer, Hill Agricultural Research Centre, BARI, Kagrachari presided over the inaugural session.



Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Principal Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC and Course Coordinator of training programme was delivering her speech as Special Guest

Fifth one was held on 30 October 2016 at RARS, BARI, Rahmatpur, Barisal. A total of forty gardeners from DAE (25), BADC (10), BARI (5) attended the training course. Specialized scientists of fruit division, BARI, Gazipur and BARC delivered lectures on grafting and nursery management for fruits.

In the inaugural session Dr. Md. Azmat Ullah, Principal Scientific Officer, Fruit Research Division, HRC, BARI, Gazipur was the Chief Guest. Dr. Fauzia Yasmin, Principal Scientific Officer (TTMU), BARC and Course Coordinator of train-

ing programme was the Special Guest. Dr. Mohammed Idrish Ali Hawlader, Senior Scientific Officer, RARS, BARI, Rahmatpur, Barisal was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Md. Abdul Wahab, Chief Scientific Officer, RARS, BARI, Rahmatpur, Barisal presided over the inaugural session.

Sharing of Knowledge and Experiences Gained Through Foreign Visit under AFACI Projects

A seminar on Sharing of Knowledge and Experiences Gained Through Foreign Visit under AFACI Projects was organized by the Manpower and Training Unit of BARC on 26 October 2016 as per the instruction of the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Md. Abeed Hossain Chowdhury, Director (Computer & GIS), Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, CSO (Crops), BARC, Dr. SM Khorshed Alam, PTO, BARC, Dr. Rina Rani Saha, PSO (Crops), BARC, Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, PSO (Crops), BARC who attended AFACI workshop/training programs abroad in June/July 2016 presented papers on the knowledge and experiences gained through their visit.

Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman of BARC chaired the seminar which was attended by the BARC officers and Deputy Secretary (IC-2) and Senior Assistant Secretary (IC-1) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Workshop on Rationalization Studies: Institutional Reforms and Research Management a

A day long workshop on Rationalization Studies: Institutional Reforms and Research Management was organized by the Manpower and Training Unit of BARC on 6 December, 2016. The workshop was held in accordance with a decision taken in the 3rd Governing Body Meeting of BARC. It may be mentioned that under NATP Phase-I Dr. MA Hamid Miah, former Executive Chairman of BARC prepared a document on Rationalization Studies:

Institutional Reforms and Research Management with some recommendations. The report was presented in the 3rd Governing Body Meeting of BARC on 4 February 2016 by Dr. MA Hamid Miah. In the meeting it was decided that BARC would hold a daylong workshop with participation of the senior NARS scientists to make the recommendations more relevant and concrete for submission in the next Governing Body Meeting.

Senior NARS scientists including the heads of BRRI, BJRI, BSRI and CDB attended the workshop. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Executive Chairman, BARC was the session chair. Mrs. Amena Begum, Deputy Secretary (Research), Ministry of Agriculture was also present as an expert member.

Training on Postharvest Management of Horticultural Crops

Training on Postharvest Management of Horticultural Crops through Improved Technologies was held during 26-27 December 2016 at Training building of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. The objectives of the training were to improve/upgrade knowledge and skills of scientists/officials dealing with postharvest activities in the country. Total 35 scientists/officers from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Department of Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Hortex Foundation, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Shere-Bangla Agricultural University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University and other private companies like ACI Ltd., PRAN-RFL Group, BRAC, and Lal Teer Seed Ltd. participated in the training. Relevant specialized resource speakers from BARI, BAU and BARC delivered lectures on postharvest management of horticultural crops through improved technologies covering

issues/policies of postharvest technologies. Adoption of international standards for postharvest management of major important fruits and vegetables were highlighted in the training. The training was funded by AFACI-Postharvest Project (2nd phase) entitled “Application of Improved Postharvest handling of Mango in Postharvest Industry”. Total 9 papers were presented in the two days training by renowned resource speakers covering all aspects of improved postharvest technologies in horticultural crops. The title of these papers were i) Postharvest losses and its economic implication of horticultural crops in Bangladesh, ii) Packaging and transportation system of horticultural crops, iii) Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for quality and safe horticultural products, iv) Cooling, storage and shelf life of horticultural crops, v) Introduction of postharvest machinery for horticultural crops, vi) Improved harvesting practices for horticultural crops, vii) Postharvest insect pest management of important horticultural crops, viii) Improving quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables and ix) Postharvest disease management of horticultural crops. The feedback and recommendations of the training were considered for development of future policy and strategies in order to reduce postharvest losses and maintain quality standard of horticultural crops in Bangladesh

Visit Abroad

Dr. Nazmun Nahar Karim, PSO, Agricultural Engineering Unit, BARC attended and presented paper in the international workshop on Towards better integration of R4D for improved food production systems in the coastal zone of Bangladesh. International Rice Research Institute organized this workshop during 18-19 October 2016 at the Hotel Grand Mercure Bangkok Fortune, Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to improve information sharing and interaction across the many R4D projects working in coastal areas.

Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, Member Director (NRM), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council participated in The 4th Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific of CSAM during 23-25 November 2016 at Bao Son Hotel, Hanoi. He presented a paper on Conservation Agriculture: A Climate-Smart Agricultural Technology for Sustainable Crop Production in Bangladesh. In this forum, twenty one papers were presented from different countries on Climate-Smart Agricultural Technology. This program was organized by UNESCAP-CSAM and Vietnam Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Training on e-Government Procurement (e-GP) System

National e-Government Procurement (e-GP) portal (i.e. <http://eprocure.gov.bd>) of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh is developed, owned and being operated by the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IME Division of Ministry of Planning. The e-GP system provides an on-line platform to carry out the procurement activities by the Public Agencies - Procuring Agencies (PAs) and Procuring Entities (PEs).

A training on e-GP System on PE user module was held on 04-06 September 2016 at 287/14, Khilgaon Rehabilitation zone. Four Officers have participated in the said training program from BARC. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council started e-GP on 28 December 2016.

Digital File Numbering and e-Filing

Training on e-Filing were held on 04-05 December 2016 and 07-08 December 2016 at computer & GIS unit, BARC. The training was held in two batches-one for officers and other for staffs. Total 42 participants attended the training. As part of building Digital Bangladesh, government organi-

zations are introducing e-Filing system which is pertinent to ensuring the process of good governance. Resource persons from BARC conducted the training program. The 18 digit digital file numbering system is taught in the training program. It is mentioned that the digital file numbering is a prerequisite for e-Filing. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council started e-Filing last 23 October 2016.

Digital Fair 2016

The country's largest digital expo Digital World 2016 - held in the capital on October 19-21 to showcase the technology-based innovations and achievements and facilitate a single platform for sharing ICT knowledge and idea.



BARC Officers are demonstrating Land Suitability Assessment and Crop Zoning of Bangladesh, Agricultural Research Management Information System (ARMIS) and BARC Archive services in the fair.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Digital Fair 2016 at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the city. Around 400 exhibitors from Bangladesh and abroad participated in the event. Among them, many are policy-makers, senior government officials and ministers, industry leaders, civil society spokespersons, investors and multinational software vendors. Representatives of ICT companies, international ICT associations, international development agencies, local software development firms presented their successful ICT & e-governance projects. The expo mainly focused on the prompt

and accelerated transformation of Bangladesh from a traditional government system to a digital one in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner. Five officers participated from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council in the fair. Land Suitability Assessment and Crop Zoning of Bangladesh, Agricultural Research Management Information System (ARMIS) and BARC Archive services have been demonstrated in the fair.

Celebration of Victory Day '2016

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council celebrated the 46th Victory Day with elaborate programmes to pay deep homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the country.

On this day in 1971, Pakistani occupation forces surrendered after a nine-month war resulting in free, independent and sovereign Bangladesh.

To observe the occasion BARC officials hoisted the National flag and also commenced the day's programs by offering floral wreaths at the Sculpture of Bangabandhu.



Dr. Paresh Chandra Golder, MD (A&F) and MD (P&E), Dr. Sultan Ahmed MD (NRM) and other officers of BARC offering floral wreath at the Bangabandhu Sculpture

BARC Personnel Awarded with PhD Degree



Shah Md. Monir Hosain, Senior Scientific Editor, Agricultural Information Centre, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council has recently obtained Ph.D. degree in Tropical Agricul-

ture from Kasetsart University, Thailand. His dissertation title was *Management of Used Nutrient Solution and Used Coconut-Coir Dust in Substrate Culture Grown Lettuce (Lactuca sativa L.)*. Dr. Thammasak Thongket, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture at Kamphaeng Saen, Kasetsart University, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand acted as his major advisor in research works. Assistant Professor Dr. Wachiraya Imsabai of the same department was his co-advisor. He conducted his research with the scholarship of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP-Phase-1), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. His research findings will be helpful to researcher and growers for plant nutrient use and crop production efficiency in soilless culture system for sustainable and economic crop production.

Susmita Das, Senior Documentation Officer of Agricultural Information Center of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council under the Ministry of Agriculture has recently been awarded PhD degree by the University of Dhaka



under the supervision of Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin Munshi, Professor of Information Science and Library Management and Dr. Wais Kabir, Former Executive Chairman, BARC. She conducted her research with the scholarship of CISSA- BARC Scholarship Program. Her dissertation title was *Enhancing the Role of ICT in Disseminating Agricultural Information to the Farmers of Bangladesh* which focuses on the effect of ICT development in the agricultural production system and overall livelihood of the rural people of Bangladesh. It may be the first enormous work in the field of ICT in Agricultural development in Bangladesh.

Her thesis will contribute to the field of agricultural information dissemination system of Bangladesh as well as agricultural information professionals and policymakers involved in agricultural development insights into application and best use of ICT.

Acknowledgement

This Newsletter is published with the information and illustrations contributed by different division/units/centres of BARC and other concerns. The contributors have also provided valuable advice and comments to make the publication informative and attractive. Their supports in bringing out the publication are warmly acknowledged with the aspiration of continued co-operation for the forthcoming issues.

Readers and Contributors

The scientists, technologists and concerned officials involved in NARS institutes are requested to send articles, success stories, research highlights and reports on important events with quality photographs for BARC Newsletter. Cooperation in this regard as well as your valuable comments and suggestions for our future endeavour would be highly appreciated.

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